KNOWLEDGE BASE ARTICLE

Troubleshooting the Classic Board Import

2026 © Vitextra SIA. All rights reserved.

Disclaimer

For the purposes of this Disclaimer:

- **Company** (referred to as either "the Company", "We", "Us" or "Our" in this Disclaimer) refers to Vitextra SIA, LV-1009 Riga, Matise iela 61 - 25.
- **Document** refers to the Knowledgebase Article.
- **You** means the individual accessing the Document, or the company, or other legal entity on behalf of which such individual is accessing or using the Document, as applicable.
- **Website** refers to Vitextra, accessible from https://vitextra.com

Disclaimer

The information contained in the Document is for general information purposes only.

The Company assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions in the contents of the Document.

In no event shall the Company be liable for any special, direct, indirect, consequential, or incidental damages or any damages whatsoever, whether in an action of contract, negligence, or other torts, arising out of or in connection with the use of the contents of the Document. The Company reserves the right to make additions, deletions, or modifications to the contents in the Document at any time without prior notice.

Errors and Omissions Disclaimer

The information given by the Document is for general guidance on matters of interest only. Therefore, errors can occur even if the Company takes every precaution to ensure that the Document's content is current and accurate. Plus, given the changing nature of laws, rules, and regulations, there may be delays, omissions, or inaccuracies in the information contained in the Document.

The Company is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or for the results obtained from the use of this information.

Fair Use Disclaimer

The Company may use copyrighted material that the copyright owner has not explicitly authorized. The Company is making such material available for criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, or research.

The Company believes this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the United States Copyright law.

If You wish to use copyrighted material from the Document for your own purposes that go beyond fair use, You must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

"Use at Your Own Risk" Disclaimer

All information in the Document is provided "as is", with no guarantee of completeness, accuracy, timeliness or of the results obtained from the use of this information, and without warranty of any kind, express or implied, including, but not limited to warranties of performance, merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.

The Company will not be liable to You or anyone else for any decision made or action taken in reliance on the information given by the Service or for any consequential, special or similar damages, even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about this Disclaimer, You can contact Us by email: support@vitextra.com.

Table of contents

Overview 4

Start here: what do you see? 4

The Import classic board button is missing 5

No classic Discussion Boards found on this site 5

Another site cannot be loaded 6

The dry run is slow or fails 6

Import is disabled 6

Author and dates could not be restored 7

Reply skipped: its topic was not imported 7

Parent reply failed to import; the reply was placed at the top level 8

Attachments 8

Flat reply trees 9

Duplicates after a second import 9

The import was interrupted 10

Imported posts are visible although the board requires approval 10

Users can like imported posts again 10

Still not solved 10

Terms 12

Overview

The importer of Discussions is deliberately conservative: it reads the classic **list**, writes what it can, and reports everything it could not do exactly as a warning instead of stopping. Most problems therefore fall into three groups - the wizard cannot be started or finds nothing, the dry run or the run fails, or the run finishes with warnings. This article lists the symptoms in that order, each with its cause and fix. How the wizard works is described in KB10417. How to Import a Classic SharePoint Discussion Board into Discussions; what it copies is in KB10418. What the Importer Copies and How It Rebuilds Reply Threads.

Start here: what do you see?

Symptom	Section
No **Import classic board** button in the command bar	**The button is missing**
site	**No boards found**
An error after **Load boards** for another site	**Another site cannot be loaded**
Analyze runs for a long time or ends with an error	**The dry run is slow or fails**
Import is greyed out	**Import is disabled**
Author and dates could not be restored	**Authors and dates**
Reply skipped: its topic was not imported: 418	**Replies skipped**
Parent reply failed to import; the reply was placed at the top level: 419	**A reply was placed at the top level**
file.pdf: … in the warnings	**Attachments**
All replies on one level, no nesting	**Flat reply trees**
Topics appear twice after a second import	**Duplicates**
The browser tab was closed during the	**Interrupted run**

Symptom	Section
import	
Imported posts are visible although the board requires approval	**Approval**
Users can like imported posts again	**Likes**

The Import classic board button is missing

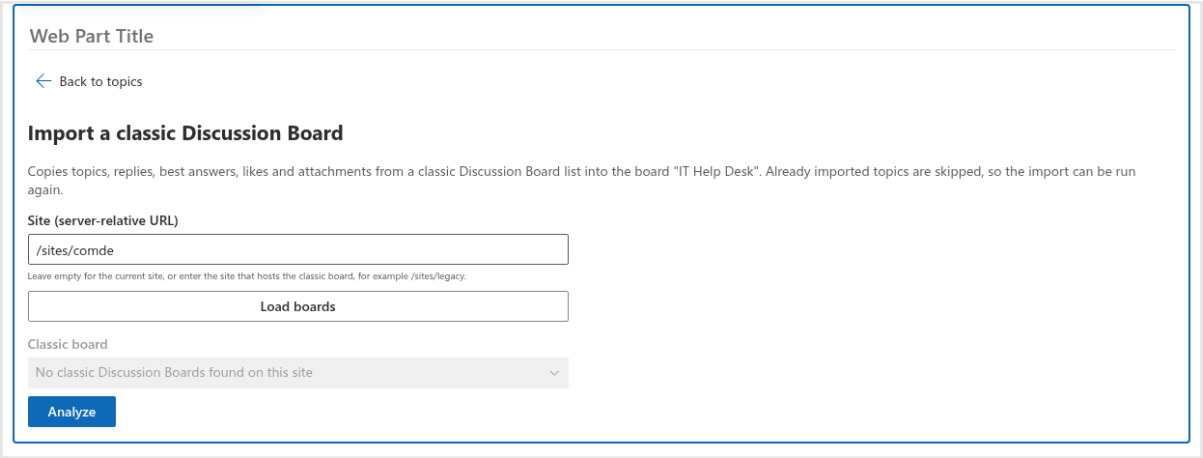
Cause. The button is shown only when both conditions hold: the page is in **edit mode**, and the signed-in user has the **Manage Lists** permission on the site (included in the Edit and Full Control permission levels). Members with Contribute see **New topic** but neither **Moderation** nor **Import classic board**. The button is also absent while the board is in the read-only state after the trial has expired.

Fix. Click **Edit** on the page, or ask a site owner to run the import. Permissions are explained in KB10408. Permissions in Discussions: Who Can Read, Post and Moderate.

No classic Discussion Boards found on this site

Cause. The wizard lists only lists of the chosen site whose template is the classic **Discussion Board** (template 108) or whose base type is Discussion Board, which includes the discussion lists of community sites. Three cases produce an empty list:

- **The board is on another site.** The wizard starts with the current site. Enter the server-relative address of the site that hosts the board - `/sites/legacy`, not the full `https://…` address and not the address of the list - in **Site (server-relative URL)** and click **Load boards**.
- **is older than 26.10.3.** Before version 26.10.3 the wizard recognized only lists with template 108 and did not list the discussion list of a classic Community Site (template 925). Update the web part to version 26.10.3 or later; from that version on, such boards appear in the drop-down like any other.
- **You have no permission on the source site.** Lists that the signed-in user cannot read are not returned by **SharePoint**. Ask for at least **Read** on the classic board.



No classic boards found on the entered site

Another site cannot be loaded

Symptom. After **Load boards**, a red message appears, for example an *Access denied* or *File Not Found* error from SharePoint, and the drop-down stays empty.

Cause. The address is wrong, the site is in another **tenant**, or you have no access to it. The importer calls the SharePoint **REST API** of the entered site with your account; the message is SharePoint's answer.

Fix. Copy the address from the site's home page and keep only the part after the host name (`/sites/legacy`); make sure the site belongs to the same tenant as the page; open the site in a new tab to confirm you can read it.

The dry run is slow or fails

Cause. Analyze reads the *whole* classic list, 2,000 items per request, and then reads the legacy ids already present in the Discussions lists. A board with tens of thousands of items takes a while; a lost connection or a session that expired meanwhile ends it with an error.

Fix. Wait for the spinner next to **Analyze** to disappear; if an error appears, refresh the page, sign in again if asked, and click **Analyze** once more. Nothing is written during the dry run, so repeating it is harmless.

Import is disabled

Cause. The plan contains **0 topics**: the classic list has no discussions. Replies cannot be imported on their own; each needs the discussion it belongs to.

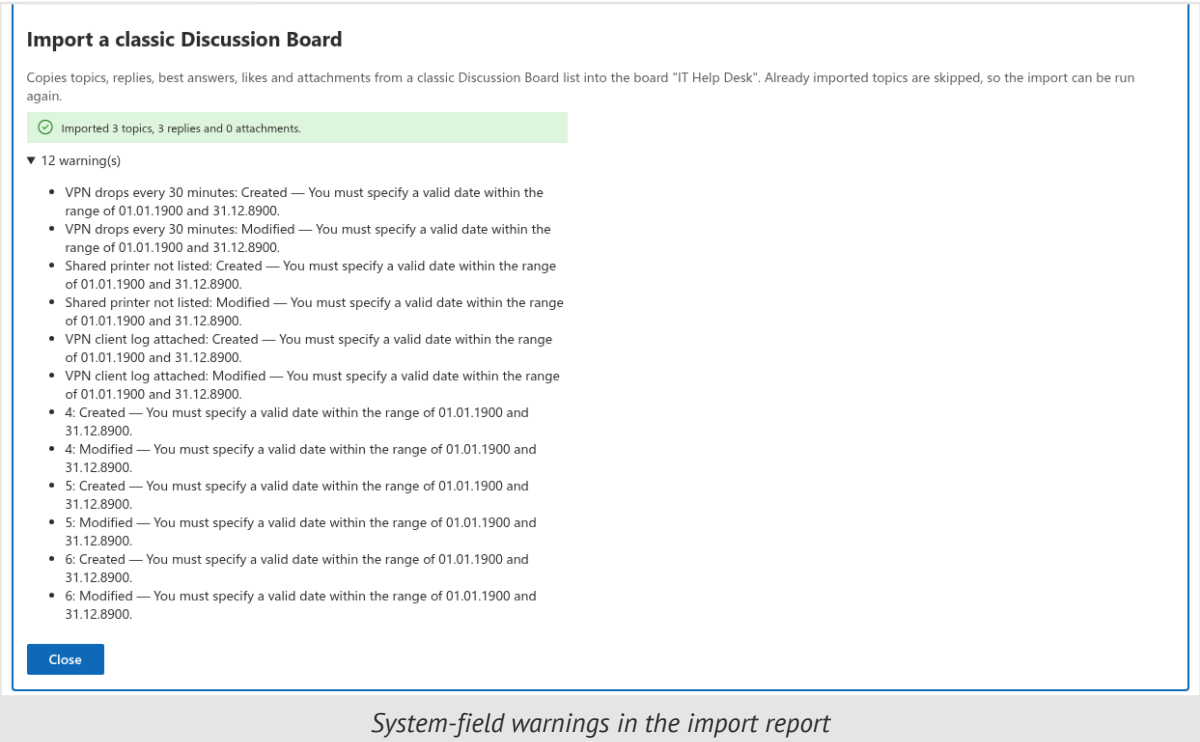
Fix. Open the classic list in the browser and check that it contains discussions; if the board is empty, there is nothing to import.

Author and dates could not be restored

Symptom. The report contains an item title followed by an error message or *Author and dates could not be restored*. Some imported items may still show your name or the import date.

Cause. With **Keep original authors and dates** selected, the importer restores **Created by**, **Modified by**, **Created** and **Modified** through SharePoint CSOM after the other writes to newly created items. The account must have permission to update these system fields. If the original author cannot be resolved to a site user, the report includes a warning and the author remains the importing user; dates can still be restored. If the CSOM update fails, the fields retain their current values. The item itself remains imported.

Fix. Run the import as a site owner. Accounts that no longer exist cannot be restored; the items stay attributed to the importing user. Because already imported topics are skipped on a second run, the system fields are not corrected by simply running the wizard again: delete the affected items (filter **Discussions Topics** and **Discussions Posts** by **Legacy id**), then run the wizard again with the right account.



System-field warnings in the import report

Reply skipped: its topic was not imported

Symptom. Lines *Reply skipped: its topic was not imported: 418*, where 418 is the classic id of the reply.

Cause. The reply's folder does not correspond to a topic the importer created or found. Usually the topic itself failed earlier - look for a warning with the topic title and SharePoint's message above the reply lines - or the reply sits in a folder that is not a classic discussion.

Fix. Resolve the topic's error (most often a permission or a title problem) and run the wizard again: the topic is created, and the replies of a topic that was not imported before are imported with it. Replies of topics that were deleted in the classic list cannot be imported.

Parent reply failed to import; the reply was placed at the top level

Symptom. Lines *Parent reply failed to import; the reply was placed at the top level: 419*, where 419 is the classic id of the reply. In the imported topic the reply stands at the first level instead of under the reply it answered in the classic board.

Cause. The reply's parent exists in the classic list, but the importer could not create it in this run - the report contains a warning for the parent itself, with its title and SharePoint's message, above the lines about its replies. The importer does not skip the children: it imports each of them at the top level of the topic and adds this warning. Replies nested under such a child are attached to it as usual.

Fix. Resolve the error reported for the parent. Replies that are already imported are skipped on a second run, so running the wizard again creates the missing parent but does not move the replies: delete the placed replies together with their nested replies (filter **Discussions Posts** by **Legacy id** of the form `{classic list id}:{reply id}`), then run the wizard again.

Attachments

Symptom. Lines *file name: error text*; the count of attachments in the final message is lower than **Items with attachments** in the plan suggested.

Cause. The file could not be downloaded from the source site or could not be added to the new item. Typical reasons: the file type is blocked in the tenant, the file is larger than what the upload allows, or the file name became invalid. The importer replaces characters that SharePoint does not allow in names and shortens names over 120 characters, but a file that already failed to upload for another reason is reported with SharePoint's message.

Fix. Attachments are copied only when the item is created; a second run does not

retry them. Download the file from the classic list and attach it to the imported topic or reply by hand; see KB10402. Attaching Files to Topics and Replies.

Note

Items with attachments in the dry run counts *items*; the final message counts *files*. A topic with three attachments is one item and three files, so the two numbers are not expected to match.

Flat reply trees

Symptom. All replies of a topic are on one level, in chronological order, although the classic board showed them nested; the dry run reported a large number in **Replies without a known parent (imported as top-level)**.

Cause. The classic **Parent item** references were lost before the import - typically when the board was copied with a migration tool that does not carry them - or point to replies that were deleted. The importer rebuilds the tree only from references that exist; it does not guess parents from dates or subjects.

Fix. If the original board still exists, copy it again with a tool that preserves the references, delete the imported items and import once more. If it does not, the flat import is the best available result.

If nesting becomes incorrect after a resumed import despite valid parent references, the current importer can assign the wrong path and depth to new replies under already imported parents. See the limitations in KB10418; simply repeating the import does not rebuild existing reply paths.

Duplicates after a second import

Symptom. After running the wizard again, every topic exists twice.

Cause. The importer recognizes imported items by their **Legacy id**, which is `{classic list id}:{item id}`. A second run from the **same** list skips everything that is already there. Duplicates appear when the second run uses a **different** list - the board was migrated again into a new list, copied with a **site template**, or restored from a backup as a new list - because the new list has a new id.

Fix. Delete one set: open **Discussions Topics** and **Discussions Posts**, filter by **Legacy id** starting with the id of the unwanted list, and delete those items (the recycle bin keeps them for the usual period). Then always import from the same list.

Warning

Deleting a topic in the **Discussions Topics** list does not delete its replies in **Discussions Posts** automatically. When you remove an imported set by hand, delete the replies as well, or they remain as items pointing to a topic that no longer exists.

The import was interrupted

Symptom. The browser tab was closed or the connection dropped while the progress bar was running; the report never appeared.

Cause. The importer runs in the browser tab. Closing the tab or losing the connection can interrupt any stage; a pending server request may already have completed.

Fix. Open the page in edit mode and run the wizard again for the same source. Topics and replies that were created are recognized by their legacy id and skipped; the rest is imported, and the finishing phase recalculates the counters of all topics in the plan. Authors, dates or attachments of items created before the interruption may be missing, and a second run does not retry them. Check the affected items and correct them manually or remove and reimport them after resolving the cause.

Imported posts are visible although the board requires approval

Cause. Imported topics and replies are created with the approval status *Approved*; the importer treats the classic content as already published.

Fix. Review the content in the classic list before the import, or reject what should not be shown in the **Moderation** queue afterwards.

Users can like imported posts again

Cause. The importer copies the like *count* but not the list of users who liked the item (the **Liked by** column stays empty). A user who liked a post in the classic board can like it once more in Discussions, which increases the count by one.

Fix. This is expected behaviour. Counters are explained in KB10405. Likes, Views and Reply Counters in Discussions.

Still not solved

Collect the following and contact Vitextra support: the version of the product from the **About** group of the property pane, the addresses of the source site and of the page, the dry-run numbers, the warning lines from the report, and a screenshot of any error message. For a list of the general symptoms of the web part, see KB10429. Troubleshooting Discussions: Not Configured, Board Not Found and Permission Errors.

Terms

List
A list is a storage unit in SharePoint. A list can contain columns of different types, content types, and views. A document library is a special type of list and therefore inherits the functionality of a list.

REST API
REST API (Representational State Transfer Application Programming Interface) is a standardized way for software applications to communicate over the internet. It enables clients to request and manipulate data on a server using standard HTTP methods such as GET, POST, PUT, and DELETE. REST APIs are widely used for building web services that are scalable, flexible, and can be accessed by various client applications.

SharePoint
SharePoint is a web-based collaboration platform that provides content management, document management, workflow applications, search, and other tools that empower employees and teams to work together. SharePoint is also a secure place to store, organize, and access shared information.

Site Template
A site template defines the initial structure and content of a new SharePoint site, such as lists, pages, and navigation. In SharePoint Online, templates are applied by using site designs and site scripts.

Tenant
A Microsoft 365 tenant is a dedicated instance of Microsoft 365 services. The tenant holds the organization's information, such as users and domains (Microsoft Entra ID), configurations, subscriptions, and services. An organization receives a tenant by signing up for Microsoft 365 services.